Lesson 10

Local Materials Used in Creating Art

As an artist conceptualizes his or her artwork, he or she does not only foresee the final product of his efforts. He or she would also mull over the kind of art materials that will be used in realizing the artwork. An artist would give much thought to the art materials that he or she can get and access from where he or she is situated. The considerations taken in choosing the appropriate kind and amount of art materials that will be used in executing the artwork are crucial for the success of the artist's effort. The artist will acquire the necessary materials that are available within the immediate surroundings, not necessarily those that can be bought as expenses can limit the acquisition of art materials, this limiting creativity as well.

What's In

An artist has to conceptualize the artwork he or she will create. The choice of art materials is dependent on the art form that will be created. After conceptualization, the process of selecting and acquiring the art materials in mind is considered a crucial step in creating a work of art. The artist bears in mind that the conceived artwork will be created from choice materials deemed appropriate for the art form.

Considering the wide and varied range of possibilities in creating contemporary art, the choice of local or indigenous art materials are as wide and varied as well. The potential source of art materials coming from the different regions of the country will be discussed. These local art materials can be used to create art forms wherever they are suited. The way these materials are used in creating art will determine the outcome of the artwork.

An artist must be sensitive in selecting the right kind of art material and should have a discriminating eye in choosing what should be and should not be used. This is the ability to see or make fine distinctions as to what is the right and proper art material to use.

What's New

The appropriateness of an art material has a telling effect in the process of creating art. When the chosen art materials are suited for the artwork, it will adequately serve its purpose of creating art. Having the right and appropriate art materials can bring out the best of the artist's creativity.

Art materials abound everywhere. It is up to the resourcefulness and creativity of the artist to come up with an artwork from seemingly unusable and ineffectual objects and things. In the eyes of a

What is this place/location?	1
Describe what you can see in this place/location.	
What materials can be acquired from this place/location?	

discerning artist, every object and thing can be used for art. The following are pictures of places familiar to most Filipinos as these abound in the different regions of the country, answer the questions after a moment of pondering. You can use a separate sheet of paper in answering this.

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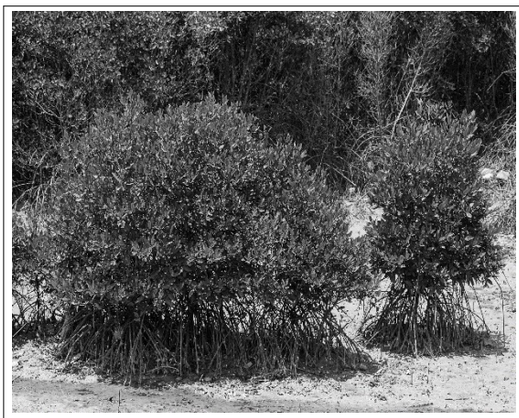
%3ASearch&go=Go&ns0=1&ns6=1&ns12=1&ns14=1&ns100=1&ns106=1#/media/File:Lagon_Bleu_-_Rangiroa__panoramio_(48).jpg

2	What is this place/location?
	Describe what you can see in this place/location.
	What materials can be acquired from this place/location?

commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?cirrusUserTesting=mediasearch_commons&search=sea+shore&title=Specia l
%3ASearch&go=Go&ns0=1&ns6=1&ns12=1&ns14=1&ns100=1&ns106=1#/media/File:Lagon_Bleu_-_Rangiroa__panoramio_(48).jpg

What is this place/location?	**3**
Describe what you can see in this place/location.	
What materials can be acquired from this place/location?	

commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?cirrusUserTesting=mediasearch_commons&search=tropical+forest&title=S pecial
%3ASearch&go=Go&ns0=1&ns6=1&ns12=1&ns14=1&ns100=1&ns106=1#/media/File:Trilha_da_Coruja_com_neblina,_Chapada_do_Araripe.jpg

 **4**	What is this place/location?
	Describe what you can see in this place/location.
	What materials can be acquired from this place/location?

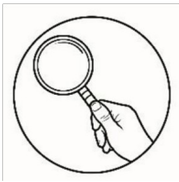
commons.wikimedia.org/5/53/Benoa_Bali_Indonesia-Mangrove-forest-01.jpg

What is this place/location?	

Describe what you can see in this place/location.	
What materials can be acquired from this place/location?	

wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b6/Ryan_Cayabyab.jpg Processing:

1. Which of the places/locations above are present in your city, town or community?
2. Can these materials be used in creating art? If yes, how can they be used? If no, why?
3. How much is cost of the art materials that you have identified in those places/locations in case you want to use them?
4. Cite difference of costing or pricing for these art materials compared to those found inside bookstores, department stores and specialty stores.
5. What is/are the advantage/s and disadvantage/s of using these materials?



What is It

The choice of art materials is a vital part of the artist's approach to his or her work and it is important to pick the right kind of materials. As a new or budding student-artist, any artwork that you will be creating is considered as contemporary art provided that it is an original concept. It should be conceived by the artist him or her self. Call it reproduction or personal rendition, copying somebody else's work is short of making some kind of artistic plagiarism. It's duplicating an original artwork with or without insignificant changes.

In creating a unique and original contemporary artwork, many artists rely on the appropriate and adequate supply of art materials. Local art materials are locally available materials from the region, province, city or town. The availability and accessibility of local art materials make them convenient and easy to use in creating art. Local art materials in combination with the tools and equipment used to create art are referred to collectively as art media. For example, paint and brush, paint is the material, and brush is the tool, together they make art media.

Local and Indigenous Art Materials

It is important to distinguish the difference between indigenous art materials and local art materials. Anything indigenous naturally comes from the place or locality. It is not introduced to the place or imported from somewhere else. Whereas, anything local also comes from the place or locality but may or may not be originally part of that place or locality. It could have been introduced to the place or locality by colonists or settlers from other places.

Indigenous art materials are materials that are natural or inherent from the place or locality. It has been there right from the start. All indigenous art materials are local materials but not all local art materials are indigenous. Local art materials could be a mix of indigenous art materials and introduced art materials.

Kinds of Local Art Materials

The use of local art materials in creating various types of arts has become the showcase of Filipino creativity, resourcefulness, and artistry. The following are kinds of local materials that can be found in the different regions and provinces of the country:

1. **Abaca,** also called manila hemp, is extracted from the leaf sheath around the trunk of the abaca plant known scientifically as Musa textilis, which is related to the banana plant. Initially used as material for rope, the abaca found its way in the arts. The plant can be found in plantations in the Bicol Region and in the different regions of Mindanao.
2. **Coconut Shells or bao**, are actually used for wood carving, improvised cooking utensils and myriads of other uses. Laminated coconut shells are considered as almost the same as the quality and appearance of turquoise shells or ivory. Coconut shells are bountiful anywhere in the country where coconut palm trees, scientifically known as Cocos nucifera, are planted. These shells are byproducts of coconut fruit processing.
3. **Bamboo or kawayan**, mistakenly identified as a tree, is actually a kind of grass. Classified scientifically as a plant of the subfamily Bambusoideae of the grass family Poaceae. It is found almost throughout the archipelago. The bamboo stem has plenty of uses and one of its prominent use is in creating art.
4. **Capiz or kapis shells** come from the windowpane oyster, a bivalve marine mollusk in the family of Placunidae. They are abundant in the Philippines, commonly found along the coastal waters. Cleaned and processed capiz shells are used for various artistic applications like windows, lanterns, and walling.
5. **Rattan** is a naturally renewable palm belonging to the subfamily Calamoideae of climbing palms. It is widely used as furniture, handicrafts, and building material. It is grown in plantations in Western Visayas and Mindanao.
6. **Small or Cowrie shells** or sigay, scientifically named Cypraea chinensi, measure about 2 centimeters each. They are often used in shell jewelry and shell craft work. They are popular for their vibrant color. They are found on sandy seafloor around the Philippine islands.
7. **Junk,** which are old or discarded articles, are considered useless or of little value but for the creative eyes of an artist they are essential in creating a wellknown art form called junk art. The discarded materials stored or hidden away inside homes or thrown in garbage bins are usually made up of plastic, wood and metal.
8. **Dried leaves** falling off from branches of trees and plants are inexhaustible. Ranging from pale yellow to dark brown, dried leaves are plentiful throughout the year. Dried leaves art is already considered a craft of its own. Palm, pandanus, or sea grass leaves are used to create artistic mats or banig.
9. **Plant seeds** can be acquired from farms and rural areas. Others can be bought commercially like corn, sorghum, mung beans, sunflower and the like. Seed art can be found in certain localities. They are distinct for their creative and colorful designs.

10. **Rocks and sand** of various types are abundant. They vary in size and color, allowing for varied art forms.

Local art materials can be classified as traditional and non-traditional. Traditional art materials available locally are those that are usually bought from department stores and bookstores. They include crayons, oil pastel, watercolor, colored pencils and other usual materials used in school. Non-traditional art materials are materials that are not usually used in creating art like coffee, plastic bottles and recyclable materials that are similar to those used in junk art.

What's More

Activity 1: Checking out Local Art Materials

You do not have to get out of your street or community just to look for things and objects that are potential local art materials. There can be stuff inside your house that can be used to create art. These are things that have been stored and left unused for weeks and months, possibly even years. Search for things inside your house that can be used as art materials. List down what you will find inside the appropriate boxes below. You can answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Your Bedroom _____ _____ _____	Living Room _____ _____ _____
Kitchen/Dining Area _____ _____ _____	Front Yard _____ _____ _____
Back Yard _____ _____ _____	Other parts of the not mentioned _____ _____ _____

Based on the list that you have made:

1. Which place of your house has the most amount of potential art materials? Why?

2. Among the art materials you have listed, which one is the most abundant? What is its source?

3. Cite the art materials that you can use together in creating an artwork.

Activity 2: Checking out Local Art Materials

You have made a list of available local art materials right from your home. It is now your chance to put your resourcefulness and creativity to the test.

1. Based on the list of available local art materials from your home (from Activity 1), make a secondary list from these local art materials that you can readily and freely use without any hassle or concerns from your family members.

2. Based on the secondary list of local art materials, what kind of artwork can you create from these materials?

3. Give the steps you will take in creating your artwork concept (Create Step 1, Step 2, Step 3 and so on).

Give your understanding of the following terms with reference to choosing local art materials used in creating artworks:

1. Para-paraan
2. Diskarte
3. Swak na swak
4. Talentado
5. Bihasa

What I Have Learned

1. The **appropriateness** of an art material has a telling effect in the process of creating art. The artist bears in mind that the conceived artwork will be created from choice materials deemed **appropriate** for the art form.

2. An artist must be **keen** in selecting the right kind of art material and should have a **discriminating eye** in choosing what should be used and what should not.

3. It is up to the **resourcefulnes**s and **creativity** of the artist to come up with an artwork from seemingly unusable and ineffectual objects and things. In the eyes of a **discerning artist**, every object and thing can be used for art.

4. **Local art materials** are locally available materials from the region, province, city or town. The **availability** and **accessibility** of local art materials make them convenient and easy to use in creating art.

5. **Indigenous art materials** are materials that are natural or inherent from the place or locality.

6. **Local art materials** could be a mix of indigenous art materials and introduced art materials.

7. The following are kinds of local materials that can be found in the different regions and provinces of the country:

5.1 Abaca

5.2 Coconut shells

5.3 Bamboo

5.4 Capiz shells

5.5 Rattan

5.6 Cowrie shells

5.7 Junk

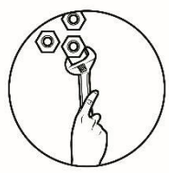
5.8 Dried leaves

5.9 Plant Seeds

5.10 Rock and sand

8. Local art materials can be classified as traditional and non-traditional. **Traditional art materials** available locally are those that are usually bought from department stores and bookstores. **Non-traditional** art materials are materials that are not usually used in creating art

What I Can Do



Creating Mini Art Using Local Art Materials

Searching and finding potential local art materials at home will be all for naught if they are left where they are and stay unused. Finding time to create a mini art using the materials you have found and listed will give you a sense of fulfillment as you put the artist inside you at work. Try doing the following steps:

A. Gather the local art materials that you have listed.

B. Conceptualize a mini art work that you can create using these local art materials.

C. Get extra materials like scissors, tape and glue to realize the art work you have in mind.

D. Start working on it. Make it simple.

E. After finishing it, give it a title and take a picture of it that you can send to your teacher.

Scoring: Perfect Score of 25

CRITERIA	5	4	3	2	1
Originality of Concept	The art concept was very unique and it stands out for its distinct features	The art concept was unique and it is at par with the other good artworks submitted	The art concept was somewhat unique with some features based on other artworks	The art concept was an innovative representation of another artwork	The concept was copied from another artwork
Choice of Local Art Materials	The student used properly identified local art materials from home	The student used properly identified local art materials from home in combination with a few commercial art materials	The student used some properly identified local art materials from home in combination with some commercial art materials	The student used a few properly identified local art materials from home in combination with commercial art materials	The student used improper art materials, mostly commercial art materials
Creativity	The art materials were used appropriately and creatively that the combination of materials complemented each other	The art materials were used appropriately and creatively with negligible design flaws	The art materials were used with little disproportions and misappropriations, with little design flaws	The art materials were used with some obvious disproportions and misappropriations with some flaws in design	The art materials were used with highly obvious disproportions and misappropriations, markedly gross flaws in design
Resourcefulness	The student used all available materials with the least or no wastage	The students used all available materials with some wastage	The student used most of the materials with little or some wastage	The student used some of the materials with little or some wastage	The student misused most of the materials with a lot of wastage

Artistic Skill	The artwork was beautiful and patiently done; it was as good as hard work could make it.	With a little more effort, the work could have been outstanding; lacks the finishing touches.	The student showed average craftsmanship; adequate, but not as good as it could have been, a bit careless.	The student showed average craftsmanship, lack of pride in finished work	The student showed poor craftsmanship; evidence of laziness or lack of understanding